



Prepared in cooperation by the Dodge County Historical Society, Dodge County Environmental Services and the Goodhue County GIS Office

Hayfield

LOCATION: Hayfield, MN 55940

STATUS: Public

TYPE: Historic, Town

HISTORY: As defined in *History of Dodge County by H. A. Smith*, “The surface in most parts of the town, is a smooth, rolling prairie. Through the southwestern quarter of the town, the Cedar River, a slow, stagnant stream, winds its way. In a few places along the stream there is a small growth of young timber with thousands of acres of virgin soil surrounding.”

The south portion of Dodge County was a popular spot for Norwegian people. Hayfield’s first settlers were Ole Erickson and Jens Olson Fossum in the 1866. These pioneers lived in dug-outs before they later built homes from themselves. By 1870, the town population reached eighteen people. Prior to 1872 the town was connected to Vernon, but the leading men of Hayfield wanted the towns separated. The first town meeting was organized on March 30th, 1872 by Levi Leighton. Leighton presented the idea of organizing the town which was named and adopted. Hayfield saw its first train arrive in October of 1885. Hayfield was complete with a roundhouse, car repair shop, stock yards, and headquarters for dispatching trains.

Today, Hayfield is a rural town that revolves around the agricultural industry. Hayfield is a popular grain elevator location for the abundance of surrounding corn and soybean fields.

OTHER RESOURCES:

<https://www.dodgecountyhistorical.org/>

https://www.co.dodge.mn.us/Government_and_Links/DODGE_COUNTY_HISTORY.pdf

<https://www.lakesnwoods.com/HayfieldGallery.htm>

PROPERTY PICTURES:



Hayfield, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society, 1908.



Vernon Cooperative Creamery near Hayfield, 1937.



Main Street Hayfield, 1906.



Hayfield School, 1909.



Street Scene in Hayfield, 1940's



Old water tower before tornado

Old Hayfield water tower next to the existing water tower